

# 8 PRACTICES OF A MATURING DISCIPLE

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## THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS



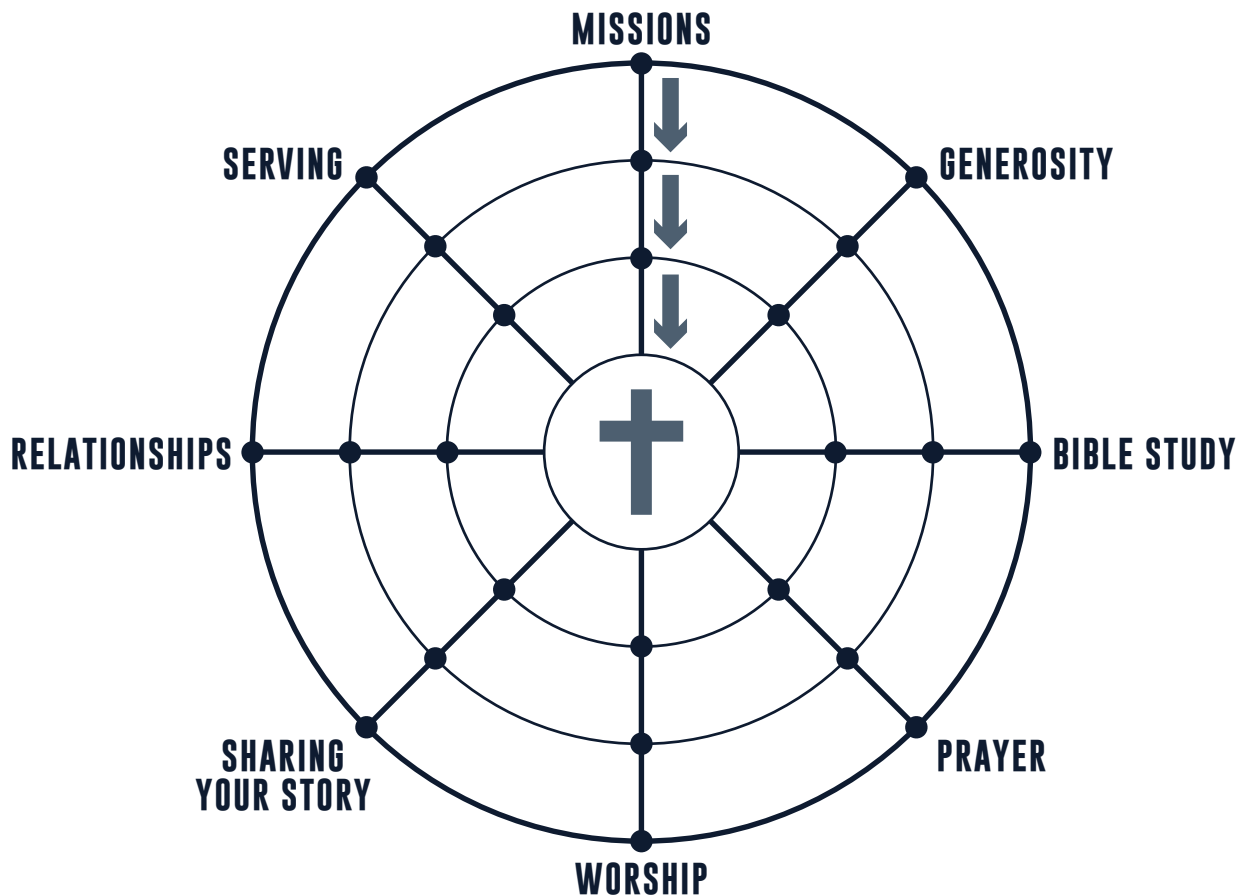
EXPLORING

BEGINNING

GROWING

CHRIST-CENTERED

## HOW ARE YOU DOING ON YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A MATURING DISCIPLE?



# 8 PRACTICES OF A MATURING DISCIPLE

**MISSIONS** - The Holy Spirit empowers disciples to live on mission, practicing their faith and obedience to the Great Commission by spreading Jesus' teachings. Engaging in both individual and collective mission efforts both locally and globally demonstrates God's love and addresses spiritual and physical needs. This embodies the love and compassion of Christ, as seen in Matthew 9:37-38, "Then He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'"

**GENEROSITY** - Scripture teaches that everything belongs to God and, as disciples, we are stewards of His property. This means our possessions, money, relationships, talents, time, physical body, and spiritual gifts are all His. Our duty is to responsibly manage these resources for His glory, as well as give generously of these resources in an effort to fulfill God's mission as emphasized in 1 Corinthians 4:2, "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

**BIBLE STUDY** - God has spoken to us through nature, His prophets, Jesus Christ, and His written Word. He has clearly shown His desire for us to know Him. In order to become growing disciples of Jesus, we must engage in personal and collective Bible reading, study, meditation, and application. As stated in Joshua 1:8, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

**PRAYER** - Just as a tree is sustained by its unseen roots, Christians grow through time spent alone with God in prayer, trusting that He knows our needs. Jesus taught us to pray sincerely and humbly, emphasizing the importance of private prayer as stated in Matthew 6:5-6, "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

**WORSHIP** - Worship is a heart attitude that honors and reveres God. True worship involves an attitude that gives God honor simply because He is God, shaping our lifestyle to honor Him in everything we do. This lifestyle permeates our lives, both in solitude as well as in the regular gathering of believers. Psalm 92:1-2 says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night."

**SHARING YOUR STORY** - The good news of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and His offer of forgiveness must be shared. Every Christian is called to share the truth of salvation with others, using their unique journey toward Christ as a personal story. God's love for people is evident throughout the Bible, and He invites disciples to join Him in winning and mentoring others as stated in Proverbs 11:30: "He who wins souls is wise." and "...make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28)

**RELATIONSHIPS** - In our daily lives, especially in these difficult days, we are to lovingly connect with other believers to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Almost every aspect of our church activity benefits from believers joining together with one heart and one mind to enlarge God's kingdom. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." Hebrews 10:24

**SERVING** - Ministry is serving others in Jesus' name. Disciples are to actively seek ways to do for others what Jesus would do given the same opportunity to serve. Participation in a service ministry at Memorial reflects the ministry of Jesus (Mark 10:45). There are endless ways to volunteer to serve at Memorial Baptist Church. God has uniquely equipped each disciple with gifts and natural abilities to serve both individually as well as through the church. Each of us need to examine our skills and interest in order to find ways to grow through serving others.